

Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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Sounding Rocket Scientist Selected to Lead Directorate

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin has announced that Dr. S. Alan Stern will be the agency's associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, effective April 2. Stern succeeds Dr. Mary L. Cleave who announced her retirement.



NASA Photo

Alan Stern, new Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

His most recent sounding rocket mission, the EUVS (Extreme Ultraviolet Spectrograph) to study the comet Hale-Bopp, was launched from White Sands Missile Range on March 30, 1997.

Stern is a planetary scientist and an author who has published more than 175 technical papers and 40 popular articles.

His research has focused on studies of our solar system's Kuiper belt and Oort cloud, comets, satellites of the outer planets, Pluto and the search for evidence of solar systems around other stars.

He has worked on spacecraft rendezvous theory, terrestrial polar mesospheric clouds, galactic astrophysics and studies of tenuous satellite atmospheres, including the atmosphere of the moon.

Stern has a long association with NASA, serving on the NASA Advisory Council, NASA's Sounding Rocket Working Group

and as the principal investigator on a number of planetary and lunar missions, including the New Horizons Pluto-Kuiper Belt mission.

He was the principal investigator of the Southwest Ultraviolet Imaging System, which flew on two space shuttle missions, STS-85 in 1997 and STS-93 in 1999.

He has been a guest observer on numerous NASA satellite observatories, including the International Ultraviolet Explorer, the Hubble Space Telescope, the International Infrared Observer and the Extreme Ultraviolet Observer.

He holds bachelor's degrees in physics and astronomy and master's degrees in aerospace engineering and planetary atmospheres from the University of Texas, Austin.

In 1989, Stern earned a doctorate in astrophysics and planetary science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Stern joins NASA from the Southwest Research Institute's Space Science and Engineering Division, Boulder, Colo., where he has been serving as executive director of the Space Science and Engineering Division.

As chief executive of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Stern will direct a wide variety of research and scientific exploration programs for Earth studies, space weather, the solar system and the universe beyond.

In addition, he will manage a broad spectrum of grant-based research programs and spacecraft projects to study Earth and the universe. Stern has over 20 years of experience in instrument development, with a strong concentration in ultraviolet technologies.

Stern has been a principal investigator for several flights in NASA's ultraviolet sounding rocket program and was the project scientist on a Shuttle-deployable SPARTAN astronomical satellite.

Snapshot



University of Alaska Photo

A NASA Black Brant XII launched from Poker Flat Research Range on February 12. This launch is one of nine sounding rockets that have been launched from PFRR during the Winter 2007 Campaign. The tenth and final rocket is on the pad awaiting launch.

Wallops Shorts.....

A NASA Black Brant XII sounding rocket was launched from Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, on February 12. The 662 pound payload was to investigate various aspects of pulsating auroras. Dr. Marc Lessard, University of New Hampshire, was the principal investigator. Jay Scott, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC), was the mission manager, and Libby West, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, is the campaign manager.

Three NASA Terrier MK70 Improved Orions and a Black Brant X sounding rocket were launched within 16 minutes from the Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, beginning at 12.22 a.m., Alaska Standard Time. The mission was to gather simultaneous wind and density measurements in the lower thermosphere at several locations. The data will be used to determine the horizontal divergence of the vector wind field.

The Terrier Improved Orions followed a traditional arcing trajectory, reaching an altitude of approximately 125 miles. Following second stage burnout of the three stage Black Brant X rocket, the onboard attitude control system reoriented the third stage such that when ignited, it propelled the experiment down-range

In an Emergency Use Wallops 911

Recently there have been cases where people have requested emergency services using the Wallops Fire Department business numbers.



Dialing just 911 on the Main Base or Wallops Island is the emergency telephone number to the Fire Department. Dialing any other number can potentially delay the response time and may not result in all of the responders arriving in a timely manner.

The following numbers should be used according to their destination:

Dial 911 from any Siemens phone on the Main Base or Island to report emergencies

Dial 757 824-1333 if using a cell phone on the Main Base or Island to report an emergency. Dialing 911 on a cell phone will result in a call to the local Emergency Dispatch Center.

along a nearly horizontal trajectory. It then flew through the aurora at an altitude of approximately 95 miles. Each of the rockets carried scientific instrumentation and experiments that released puffs of trimethylaluminum, a harmless substance that glows when exposed to oxygen. The on-board scientific instrumentation took direct measurements while the glowing trimethylaluminum was imaged by ground cameras to map movements within the upper atmosphere.

Dr. John Craven, University of Alaska, was the principal investigator. Tracey Gibb, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC) was the mission manager. Libby West is the campaign manager.

On the Road

Rob Hurley, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, took part in the NASA PM Challenge 2007 in Galveston, Texas, on February 6 and 7. The conference culminated four months of work and is sponsored by NASA's Academy of Program/Project & Engineering Leadership (APPEL) in association with The Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE) and The Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (OSMA).

Inspire the Next Generation Day

The annual Inspire the Next Generation Day at Wallops will be held March 29. The event, usually held at the end of April, is being moved up to avoid any conflict with the NFIRE mission. The deadline for applications is March 15.

For further information or an application, contact Ed Parrott at x1681 or by email: Edward.D.Parrott.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

New Features for Inside Wallops

Inside Wallops is beginning two new features!

The photo feature, "Snapshot," will exhibit photos about activities at Wallops. The second feature will be "Spotlight," which will feature a person at Wallops.

To submit a photo or suggest a person for Spotlight, contact Rebecca Hudson at Rebecca.S.Hudson@nasa.gov.

February is Black History Month

Black History Month began almost a century ago after the founding of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, by Carter G. Woodson. Woodson "believed that publishing scientific history about the black race would produce facts that would prove to the world that Africa and its people had played a crucial role in the development of civilization." Conceived in 1925 and first celebrated in 1926, the first Negro History Week was born. Since then it has grown into what we now celebrate as Black History Month. As a result of his efforts, the contributions of this segment of our community are now being recognized and celebrated.

The theme for this year's celebration is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas." President Bush stated in his proclamation recognizing this important month: "African Americans have been an integral part of America for generations, and our Nation is stronger because of their contributions." The Goddard Space Flight Center also recognizes the contributions of this segment of our population.

COTR Certification

Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) Certification training is being offered in the E-2 training room at Wallops on March 12-14. The Refresher COTR training course is also being offered on March 15.

Registration is via SATERN at the following site: <https://satern.nasa.gov/elms/learner/login.do>

Follow these steps to register:

1. Click on the heading Catalog
2. Click on Calendar of Offerings
3. Go to the first day of the class
4. Click on the category your class is most likely associated with (in this case BusinessManagement/Administration)
5. Click on the course
6. Scroll to the far right and hit the register button

If you have any questions, call Rich Billger at x2394

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